Business leaders introduced to CAPITAL at breakfast

Richard F. McKeon, Senior Philanthropic Advisor at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors; Greg Hambric, Regional Training Manager at Modell's Sporting Goods; Jeanne B. Mullgrav, Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Commissioner; and Dennis M. Walcott, Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development discuss the CAPITAL youth internship program at Columbia University's Low Library. CAPITAL (Corporate Allies Program of Internships, Training and Leadership) is an innovative workforce initiative administered by DYCD that pairs New York City youth with corporate sector employers who agree to provide paid summer internships for youth. *(Photo: Paul Margolis, DYCD)*

The Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development, Dennis M. Walcott and Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav hosted a breakfast at Columbia University 's Low Memorial Library to enlist corporate support for DYCD's CAPITAL internship program.

CAPITAL (Corporate Allies Program of Internships, Training and Leadership) is an innovative youth workforce initiative administered by DYCD that pairs New York City youth with corporate sector employers who agree to provide paid summer internships. The Deputy Mayor and Commissioner were joined by founder, chairman and CEO of Operation HOPE, John Hope Bryant; Lloyd A. Williams, president of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce (GHCC); vice president of sales at Coca-Cola Enterprises, Jerry Garavell; and senior philanthropic advisor at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Richard F. McKeon. The breakfast, which also celebrated Operation HOPE's new Harlem Center was co-hosted by DYCD and GHCC, and sponsored by Columbia University , Coca-Cola, and American Legacy Magazine.

"Great careers are built on great first jobs. It is essential that we provide young people with access to high-quality employment opportunities that will foster the skills and habits they need to achieve professional success and to lead our economy," said Deputy Mayor Walcott. "CAPITAL is a business proposition that benefits both parties: employers gain access to a diverse pool of high-potential employees, and interns can gain experience first-hand from the corporate world."

"Our founding corporate partners can attest that hiring a C AP ITAL intern is not only good for community relations, it is also good for the bottom line," said DYCD Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav. "The interns are hard-working, poised, and thoroughly prepared, and the employers are excited to be working with young people who can help them build a foundation for future success. New Yorkers have good reason to be optimistic about tomorrow's economy."

CAPITAL is a public-private initiative supported by some of the City's leading businesses. In 2006, its inaugural year, CAPITAL provided paid summer internships in corporate settings for 50 young men and women who had previously distinguished themselves in the City's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), which is administered by DYCD.

CAPITAL employers agree to provide paid summer internships for a minimum of 25 hours per week, for seven weeks; interns earn at least the minimum wage. Current CAPITAL 2007 corporate partners are: WPP Group USA participating agencies – Grey Advertising, JWT, Mediacom, Mediaedge: CIA, Ogilvy & Mather, and Young & Rubicam Brands; Berkeley College; 1-800 Mattress; Bloomberg LP; Brooklyn College; Davis Brody Bond; Deloitte and Touche; Earl Graves/ *Black Enterprise* Magazine; Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Major League Soccer; Modell ' s Sporting Goods; Municipal Credit Union of New York, Queens Library; and RCN Business Solutions.

"Operation HOPE is proud to support CAPITAL, an innovative public/private initiative that offers young people a true hand up, and not just a hand out. We are pleased to once again partner with DYCD, which has incorporated our award-winning Banking on Our Future program into other youth employment initiatives," said John Hope Bryant, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Operation HOPE. "Programs like CAPITAL prove that companies can indeed do well by doing good."

"Leadership thrives on opportunity. When corporations make short-term investments in the C AP ITAL internship program, they are also making long-term investments in the vitality and economic growth of New York ," said Lloyd A. Williams, Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce President. "Businesses gain by tapping into the wealth of fresh and innovative minds, new and creative thoughts, and by the development of talent. The interns benefit greatly by gaining inroads into promising careers and new visions of what life can have in store."

Employers interested in sponsoring interns this summer can contact DYCD at *capitalinternships@dycd.nyc.gov.* New Yorkers can find out more about CAPITAL and other youth programs in their neighborhood at *www.nyc.gov/dycd*, or by calling the City's 311 information line.